

## **Seattle-King County Department of Public Health (SKCDPH)**

### **African American Community Leaders Roundtable**

Meeting of October 28, 1998

#### **Attendees:**

Neal Adams, Regional Health Admin Assoc., Region 10-OMH, 2201 6th Ave., M/S RX20, Seattle, WA 98121, (206) 615-2475  
Carol Allen, Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144, (206) 461-7816  
Gwen Browne, Mayor's Council on African American Elders, (206) 725-8820  
Sheila Capestany, Richard Conlin and Richard McIver's Offices, City of Seattle, Municipal Bldg., 600 Fourth Ave, Seattle 98104-1876 (206) 684-8805  
John Cannon, Mayor's Council on African American Elders, (206) 722-5666  
Sandy Ciske, Public Health Services Supervisor, Department of Public Health, 999 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 296-2791  
Cheza Collier, Unit Manager, Chronic Disease, Department of Public Health, 999 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 296-6810  
Susan Compton, Mayor's Council on African American Elders, (206) 725-8820  
Shelley Cooper-Ashford, Center for Multicultural Health, 105 14th Ave. Suite 2-C, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 461-6910 ext. 219  
Lynn French, President and CEO, African-American Community Health Network, 300 19th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122-0540, (206) 860-9883  
Rodney Hines, Friends of Basic Health, 506 2nd Ave., Suite 2400, Seattle, WA. 98104, (206) 223-0476  
Dawne Hood, MD, Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center, 2101 E. Yesler, Seattle, WA. 98122, (206) 461-4587 ext 413  
Rev. James Hurd, African-American Community Health Network, 300 19th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122-0540, (206) 860-9883  
Naomi Johnson, Confidential Secretary to the Director, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, 999 Third Ave, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 296-1480  
Linda Jones, Center for Multicultural Health, 105 14th Ave. Suite 2-C, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 461-6910  
Rayburn Lewis, MD, Medical Director, Providence Medical Center, P. O Box 34008, Seattle, WA 98124-1008, (206) 320-2563  
April Pace, James Bowman & Assoc., 1809 7th Avenue, Ste. 400, Seattle, WA 98101-1313, (206) 223-0128  
Alonzo Plough, PhD, Director, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, 999 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 296-1480  
Millie Russell, EdD, WA State Assoc. of Black Prof. in Health Care, University of Washington, Biology and Office of Minority Affairs, (206) 685-3637  
Mike Smyser, Epidemiologist II, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, 999 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 205-0560  
Clarence Spigner, MPH, Assoc. Prof., University of Washington, School of Public Health, P.O. Box 357660, Seattle, WA 98195, (206) 616-2948  
Alvin Thompson, MD, Washington State Association of Black Professionals in Health Care, King County Board of Health, 8222 Avalon Drive, Mercer Island, WA 98040, (206) 232-3144  
Henry Ziegler, MD, Prevention Division Director, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, 999 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 296-4648

#### **Invited, unable to attend:**

Walter Atkinson, Public Education Program, City of Seattle, 1015 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, 206-684-3883  
Gregory Davis, Project Director-ROPE, CAMP, 722 18th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, 329-4111 ext305  
Patricia Dawson, M.D., Group Health Cooperative, 200 15th Ave E., CX-5, Seattle, WA 98112-5260, 320-4880  
Maxine Hayes, MD, WSDOH, Airdustrial Park, Bldg. #7, Olympia, WA, 98504, 360-236-3721  
Walt Hubbard, Mayor's Office, Municipal Bldg-12th Floor, 600 4th Ave., Seattle, WA. 98104, 684-8854  
Brent A. Oldham, M.D., 1101 Madison St Suite 301, Seattle, WA, 505-1070

**African American Community Leaders Roundtable**

Meeting of October 28, 1998

Topic	Discussion	Concern/Action
<b>Welcome and Purpose</b>	Alonzo Plough welcomed the participants, stating that the Public Health Department was pleased to convene and host this group.	Dr. Plough stated that the purposes of this meeting were to 1) identify health issues facing African-Americans, 2) describe what programs were currently available targeting/serving African-Americans, and 3) discuss strategies for addressing these issues. He stated that this is not an attempt to establish another coalition or group, but, rather, an opportunity to come together, identify concerns, and share ideas.
<b>Introductions</b>	The participants introduced themselves (see list of attendees).	
<b>Highlights of the King County Ethnicity and Health Survey and The Health of King County report</b>	<p>Mike Smyser from the SKCDPH's Epidemiology, Planning, and Evaluation Unit (EPE) reviewed the major findings of <i>The King County Ethnicity and Health Survey</i> which was recently released to the public. He also reviewed excerpts from <i>The Health of King County</i> report describing health indicators by race/ethnicity.</p> <p>Mr. Smyser invited participants to add their names to the mailing list for these kinds of reports produced by the SKCDPH. To do so, call Scott Jones at 296-6817 or email him at <a href="mailto:scott.jones@metrokc.gov">scott.jones@metrokc.gov</a>.</p> <p>Dr. Plough thanked him for his succinct presentation and noted that EPE is an invaluable resource to the SKCDPH and for the community.</p>	<p>Health Status Indicators for African Americans living in King County were summarized in handouts containing excerpts from the <i>Health of King County</i> and the <i>King County Health and Ethnicity Survey</i>. Major findings from these sources include:</p> <p><b>Progress toward better health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreasing infant mortality</li> <li>Decreasing mortality due to coronary heart disease, lung cancer, chronic liver disease, homicide, and AIDS.</li> <li>Decreasing communicable disease rates (e.g., chlamydial infection, gonorrhea, hepatitis B)</li> <li>Favorable survey indicators compared to King County totals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower rates of alcohol consumption, chronic, and binge drinking</li> <li>Higher rates of screening measures for high blood pressure/cholesterol (C/SE Seattle)</li> <li>Cervical and breast cancer screening (C/SE Seattle and KC, but breast cancer screening rates countywide among African American women, age 50+ are unknown)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>New and continuing challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persistently higher rates of mortality and disease reports than King County totals</li> <li>Increasing death rates with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stroke</li> <li>Some types of cancer (e.g., colorectal, female breast cancer, and prostate)</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Accidental poisoning (largely attributable to opiates such as heroin and cocaine)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Despite fewer deaths due to AIDS, new cases of AIDS are still reported at over twice the county rate.</li> <li>Survey results indicating possible higher health risk when compared to King County totals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health insurance status (18% uninsured compared to KC total of 13%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**African American Community Leaders Roundtable**

Meeting of October 28, 1998

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delaying to seek medical treatment</li> <li>- Not receiving needed dental care (20% unmet need in C/SE Seattle)</li> <li>- Overweight status</li> <li>- Smoking (over 40% of men are current smokers)</li> <li>- Diagnosis of high blood pressure</li> <li>- Lower cholesterol screening (KC)</li> <li>- Lower rates of immunization against pneumonia (age 65) (C/SE Seattle only, KC status unknown).</li> <li>- Perceived discrimination when seeking health care (nearly one third of the respondents in C/SE Seattle reported being discriminated against based on race/ethnicity when seeking services)</li> </ul> <p><b>The Roundtable group raised the following issues/concerns:</b></p> <p>Racism is a contributor to adverse health outcomes.</p> <p>This study raises questions and shows need for more qualitative research on discrimination in health practice.</p> <p>Interventions are needed address these issues. Where interventions already exist, have they helped?</p> <p>There is a strong need to do more evaluation of programs. Data must be collected to support development of interventions.</p> <p>The designation of race is objectionable at the clinical level, but valuable from a public health/data perspective – without it effective programs could not be developed and targeted appropriately.</p>
<b>SKCDPH programs which serve African-Americans</b>	<p>Dr. Plough distributed a list of SKCDPH programs that serve or target African-Americans.</p> <p>Participants were reminded that Surgeon General David Satcher M.D., Ph.D. will be coming to Seattle in early December.</p>	<p>Dr. Plough pointed out that 50% of the patients served by SKCDPH's Jail Health Services are American Africans. Attendees generally agreed that this demonstrates a strong need for earlier intervention with this population.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the possibility of acquiring federal funds to address disparities in health outcomes between people of color and Caucasian people. In particular, the Surgeon General has set aside \$10 M to address these gaps; some of these funds may come to the Pacific Northwest.</p>

## Seattle-King County Department of Public Health (SKCDPH)

### African American Community Leaders Roundtable

Meeting of October 28, 1998

<b>Roundtable</b>	Each participant described their current programs and efforts to address health issues facing African-Americans in King County.	
Clarence Spigner	Clarence Spigner is with the UW's school of Public Health. Currently, he is assessing organ donor and tissue transplantation issues in the community as well as youth smoking among Asians and Pacific Islanders.	
Alvin Thompson	Alvin Thompson is with the Association of Black Professionals in Health Care. He is networking with anyone interested in the health care of "black people." He is focusing on the following: system recruitment and retention; advocacy for "black people" at all levels of government and professions; cardiovascular health issues.	
Sheila Capestany	Sheila Capistani works with Seattle City Councilmembers Richard McIver and Richard Conlin. Her work with the African-American community includes training African-American women to provide prenatal, Dula labor, and delivery support care for others.	
Rodney Hines	Rodney Hines is with Friends of the Basic Health Plan. He is vitally concerned with issues facing African-Americans which involve the Basic Health Plan. The goal of his group is to have every eligible child enrolled in Medicaid by 2001. He also participated in the Prostate Symposium held last May.	
Carol Allen	Carol Allen is with Central Area Senior Center. She is working on a senior immunization project with the Public Health Department. She is also working with the UW on stress and Alzheimers issues.	
Susan Compton	Susan Compton is with the Mayor's Council on African-American Elders. She and her colleagues are working on the following: identifying elder African American access issues and involving the community; recruiting/training/retaining of volunteers; coordination and transportation for elders and chore services.	
Gwen Browne	Gwen Browne is with the Mayor's Council on African-American Elders. She is a retired public health nurse currently involved in a variety of volunteer work. She and her colleagues are working on the following: identifying elder African American access issues and involving the community; recruiting/training/retaining of volunteers; coordination and transportation for elders and chore services. Of particular interest to her is support for grandparents and drug-affected children.	
Neil Adams	Neil Adams is with the Office of Minority Health, Region 10, Regional Health Administration Association. His group is involved with strategic planning, information sharing, other kinds of coordination. His agency is currently working on a domestic violence program involving the Hispanic community and has gathered valuable information on how teenagers view domestic violence. They are also interested in diabetes prevention/care among minorities.	
Millie Russell	Millie Russell is with the University of Washington (Biology, Minority Affairs) and the Washington State Association of Black Professionals in Health Care. She is focusing on building a healthy people network and providing early intervention to increase tests scores of diverse student in K-16 (improving college entrance scores and thus increasing numbers of diverse students able to compete for higher education).	
Lynn French	Lynn French represents the African American Community Health Network whose mission is to improve the health status of under served populations. Currently, they are developing an assisted living facility for seniors in the Central District which will be operational during the first quarter of 2000. They have recently started a newsletter (all are welcome to contribute their ideas). He is involved with the African-American Elders program and the UW Organ/Tissue Donor Program.	
James Hurd	James Hurd is with the African-American Community Health Network. He is involved with setting up a network of churches for promoting health and establishing a Home Care Project.	
John Cannon	John Cannon is with the Mayor's Council on African-American Elders. He made the following observations: We have learned to do well as bureaucrats. We need to work hard with our communities. We need to take advantage of the bureaucracies and come together to act on decisions.	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Concern/Action</b>

**Seattle-King County Department of Public Health (SKCDPH)**

**African American Community Leaders Roundtable**

Meeting of October 28, 1998

	Dawne Hood	Dawne Hood is a physician working at Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center. Her medical center provides primary care (prenatal to geriatric), preventive care, care for acute or chronic disease, community outreach/education, dental care, maternity support team, WIC program. Clinic staff also train physician residents and medical assistants.
	Rayburn Lewis	Rayburn Lewis is Medical Director of Providence Medical Center. Providence is designing a facility that will blend retail access in with businesses and support housing for the community. Providence Health Plans has dropped out of Healthy Options, changing to Regence.
	April Pace	April Pace is with James Bowman and Associates. Her agency is a regional manager for health care, is 99% federally funded, and is working with the CDC. They are focusing on training, research, and technical assistance to nurses.
	Linda Jones	Linda Jones is with the Center for Multicultural Health. They have several programs including: Sound health program, mobile unit program, breast & cervical program, 'Tell A Friend' beauty salon project, "Spread the Word" project, Home Health Program, Camille Gordon cancer walk, and "Circle of Friends" program, among others.
	Shelley Cooper-Ashford	Shelley Cooper-Ashford is with the Center for Multicultural Health. She stated they had recently conducted four focus groups (seniors and boomers). She highlighted the following activities: MAA – new outreach option programs, outreach/education around diabetes, and Seattle Healthy Homes project which studies asthma in children (in association with the Public Health Department).

**African American Community Leaders Roundtable**

Meeting of October 28, 1998

Topic	Discussion	Concern/Action
<b>Issues List</b>	<p>Participants were asked to identify outstanding issues for compilation of a "Closing the Gap List."</p> <p>It was suggested that this list be refined and presented in a special session of the King County Board of Health.</p>	<p>The following items/questions were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HIV AIDS programs were not mentioned in programs reviewed. Can data be obtained related to HIV AIDS in minority women?</li> <li>▪ Domestic violence overlap with other health issues.</li> <li>▪ Under-employment in African American community, especially African American males.</li> <li>▪ What factors contribute to a King County jail population in which nearly 50% of those incarcerated are African-Americans?</li> <li>▪ What role could surveillance/epidemiology play in answering the question above (for example, for drug usage)?</li> <li>▪ What health education / prevention measures and programs need to be in place?</li> <li>▪ How can we address high rates of chlamydia and other sexually transmitted disease among African-American youth?</li> <li>▪ Organ and tissue donation.</li> <li>▪ Need to involve community in health planning.</li> <li>▪ Not enough resources dedicated to health prevention, promotion, and care for African-Americans.</li> <li>▪ Support for young parents.</li> <li>▪ Prostate and colorectal cancer screening</li> <li>▪ Infant Mortality – SIDS – we need to know more. What is the extent of this problem among African-Americans in King County?</li> <li>▪ Address poverty issues. It has strong impact on health, not just behavior</li> <li>▪ Mental health and aging issues</li> <li>▪ Dual-diagnosis of substance use and mental illness.</li> <li>▪ Improve access to preventive care through Medicaid.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>The group informally adjourned at 1:30 PM.</p>	<p>Minutes—containing a list of attendees, addresses and phone numbers—will be distributed to all participants. Dr. Plough thanked everyone who participated.</p>

Notes Prepared by Naomi Johnson